

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claims 1, 7 and 15 are currently amended.
Claims 17-20 are currently cancelled. Claims 21-24 are newly presented.

Elections/Restrictions

Claims 1-20 were subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-16 were elected without traverse for prosecution in the present application. Claims 17-20 are hereby cancelled. However, the Applicant reserves the right to pursue the non-elected claims in one or more Divisional applications filed during the pendency of the present application.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging and reviewing the Information Disclosure Statement previously filed.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 7 and 15 were objected to for minor informalities. Claims 1, 7 and 15 are currently amended, whereby the Applicant believes such minor informalities are corrected. The amendments to claims 1, 7 and 15 are believed and intended to be limited to correcting such minor informalities. The amendments to claims 1, 7 and 15 are not made to narrow the claims, nor to bring the claims into a condition of being patentable over the prior art.

Newly Presented Claims

Newly presented claims 21-24 are patterned after cancelled claims 17-20 and are believed to be allowable as reciting the same invention recited in allowable claims 1-16, except that the invention is recited in narrower scope in newly presented claims 21-24 than in allowable claims 1-16. Therefore, claims 21-24 are believed to be allowable.

The claims now being in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

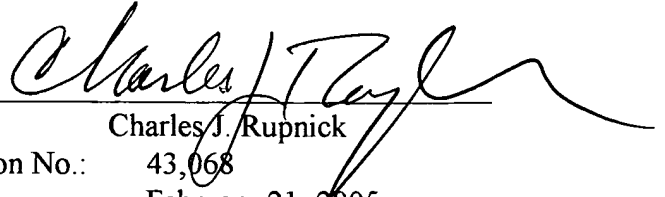
Serial No. 10/718,974

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Respectfully submitted,

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